



County of San Luis Obispo, California

# **PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**

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## **COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Parks and Recreation / Shaun Cooper, 781-4388  
**SUBJECT:** East West Vineyard Trail  
**DATE:** 6/25/2015

### **Recommendations:**

It is recommended that the Parks and Recreation Commission reaffirm the County's intent to use the existing trail easements to construct the future East West Vineyard Trail at such time that other trail priorities have been completed and funding is available for construction and maintenance.

### **Discussion:**

The County Parks and Recreation Element identifies proposed trails including those providing neighborhood connectors and perimeter trails. As development occurs, projects are conditioned to provide trail easements as appropriate to implement the projects identified in the Parks and Recreation Element.

County Parks staff, the Vineyard Estates Homeowners, and the adjacent property owner(s) have been in communication regarding the coordination of constructing the proposed East West Vineyard Trail within existing easements in Templeton. This trail would connect Paseo Exselsus to Malvasia Court and complete the perimeter trail facility around the Vineyard Estates Development. It would serve the neighborhood and surrounding community and would eventually provide connectivity from the neighborhood to the future Templeton to Whale Rock Trail, which would ultimately connect to the future Regional Salinas River Trail.

This trail was originally considered for trail development based on citizen interest and funding support for construction costs and long term maintenance costs from a number of sources including San Luis Obispo Parks Opens Space and Trails (SLOPOST) and private citizen donations. Opposition from residents of Vineyard Estates, whom the proposed project would primarily serve, has resulted in the withdrawal of most construction funds and the loss of a long term commitment for maintenance support. Concerns expressed by the neighboring residents include:

- Regional Trail Connectivity
- Redundancy of Existing Trails - Waste of Limited Resources
- Nuisance, Security, & Safety Concerns
- Noise
- Privacy
- Unauthorized Trail Use
- Parking
- Maintenance

The Area 1 Quimby Fee fund account has a balance available of approximately \$46,000. Other high priority projects, such as the San Miguel Park expansion project and the Templeton to Atascadero Connector Pathway, would be eligible for this Quimby Fee funding. The San Miguel Park project is currently in the design phase and planned for construction in 2016-17. This important project may need additional funding from the Quimby Fee fund. Staff intends to retain the balance of the Area 1 Quimby Fee funds available until the San Miguel Park project is complete.

The East West Vineyard Trail is not among the Priority Projects listed in the Parks and Recreation Commission's annual report. Limited staffing resources are focused on the top priority projects in an effort to move these projects forward. The easements are not in jeopardy. Full funding is not available for construction and there is no commitment for ongoing maintenance.

For these reasons, the Department does not intend to move forward with construction of the trail within the existing easements at this time.

**Other Agency Involvement:**

Meetings have been held with Supervisor Mecham and the Templeton School District regarding this trail and other trail connections in the Vineyard Estates vicinity.

**Financial Considerations:**

The estimated cost to develop the east west vineyard trail is approximately \$35,000. The estimated ongoing maintenance costs are approximately \$1,000 annually. Costs could escalate due to the need for conflict resolution from residents opposed to the trail project.

**Attachments**

1. Attachment A- East West Vineyard Trail Map
2. Attachment B- Parks and Recreation Element Templeton Map
3. Attachment C- Templeton Accepted Trail Easements Map